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United States Patent [19]

Grube

[11] **Patent Number:** 6,026,366

[45] **Date of Patent:** Feb. 15, 2000

[54] **METHOD FOR PROVIDING SOFTWARE TO A REMOTE COMPUTER**

[75] Inventor: **Gary W. Grube**, Barrington, Ill.

[73] Assignee: **Motorola, Inc.**, Schaumburg, Ill.

[21] Appl. No.: **08/950,502**

[22] Filed: **Oct. 14, 1997**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 08/795,905, Feb. 5, 1997, abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/124,616, Sep. 22, 1993, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁷** .... $G06F\ 17/30$

[52] **U.S. Cl.** 705/10; 705/26

[58] **Field of Search** 705/10, 26

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Susan L. Lukasik

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A communication system (100) employs a method for providing software to a remote computer (e.g., 116) or network server (e.g., 114). The remote computer (or network server) and a host computer (101) each has a radio communication device (102, 115, 117) coupled to it. The remote computer transmits information related to the computer's present configuration to the host computer via the remote computer's radio communication device, wherein such information includes information indicating software applications presently contained within the remote computer. Based on the received configuration information, the host computer determines whether the remote computer is in need of software that compliments the software applications presently contained within the remote computer. When the remote computer is in need of such complimenting software, the host computer selects software applications that compliment the software applications presently contained within the remote computer and transmits a list of the complimenting software to the remote computer via the host computer's radio communication device. Upon receiving the list of complimenting software, the remote computer determines whether it wants to obtain any of the listed software from the host computer and, when it does, selects the desired software from the list. The remote computer then transmits the list of selected software to the host computer via the remote computer's radio communication device. Subsequent to receiving the remote computer's list, the host computer transmits the selected software applications to the remote computer.

14 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets